What is claimed is:

1. A high intensity discharge lamp assembly, comprising:

a) an hermetically sealed glass envelope containing a mixture of ionizable elements and/or compounds;

b) a sealed ballast container mounted adjacent to said glass envelope;

c) an electronic ballast contained in said container, said ballast having an input and an output;

d) an anode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to one pole of said ballast output;

e) a cathode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to another pole of said ballast output; and

f) coupling means for coupling said input of said ballast to a DC power source.

2. A lamp assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

g) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

3. A lamp assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

g) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope and said ballast container, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

4. A lamp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

said coupling means is cable with a wet pluggable plug at one end for coupling/uncoupling to/from a battery pack while under water.

5. A lamp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

said coupling means is cable with a pair of connectors at one end for coupling to a battery pack.

6. A lamp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

said ballast container is potted with a thermally conductive epoxy.

7. A lamp assembly according to claim 5, wherein:

said ballast container is made from a member selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic and/or a combination thereof.

8. An underwater lighting system, comprising:

a) an hermetically sealed glass envelope containing a mixture of ionizable elements and/or compounds;

b) a sealed ballast container mounted adjacent to said glass envelope;

c) an electronic ballast contained in said container, said ballast having an input and an output;

d) an anode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to one pole of said ballast output;

e) a cathode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to another pole of said ballast output;

f) a battery pack having a power coupling; and

g) a cable coupled to said input of said ballast to said power output of said battery pack.

9. An underwater lighting system according to claim 8, further comprising:

h) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

10. An underwater lighting system according to claim 8, further comprising:

h) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope and said ballast container, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

9. ~~11.~~ An underwater lighting system according to claim ~~8~~ 7, wherein:

said cable has a wet pluggable plug at one end and said power output of said battery pack has a wet pluggable socket.

10. ~~12.~~ An underwater lighting system according to claim ~~8~~ 7, wherein:

said cable with a pair of connectors at one end permanently coupled to said power output of said battery pack.

13. An underwater lighting system according to claim 8, wherein:

said ballast container is potted with a thermally conductive epoxy.

12. ~~14.~~ An underwater lighting system according to claim ~~13~~, wherein:

said ballast container is made from a material selected from the groups of metal, plastic or a combination thereof.

13. ~~15.~~ An underwater lighting system according to Claim ~~8~~, wherein said ballast container is mounted within 18 inches of said glass envelope.

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